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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/765,232	01/26/2004	Aaron Stephen Meyers	310480.01	1750
22971	7590	05/31/2006	EXAMINER	
MICROSOFT CORPORATION ATTN: PATENT GROUP DOCKETING DEPARTMENT ONE MICROSOFT WAY REDMOND, WA 98052-6399			PAULA, CESAR B	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2178	

DATE MAILED: 05/31/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/765,232

Applicant(s)

MEYERS ET AL.

Examiner

CESAR B. PAULA

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

### DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the application filed on 1/26/2004.

**This action is made Non-Final.**

2. Claims 1-35 are pending in the case. Claims 1, 21, and 34-35 are independent claims.

#### *Priority*

3. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. 120.

This application is a CIP of US application No.10/627,180 filed on 7/25/2003.

#### *Drawings*

4. The drawings filed on 1/26/2004 have been accepted by the Examiner.

#### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112*

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. Claims 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

7. Claim 15 recites the limitation "*the relational abstraction whose base view is the destination view of the last relation in the sequence*" in lines 2-3. There is insufficient

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antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. There is no previous "last relation in the sequence" in this or base claim.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

9. Claims 1-3, and 8-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Getting Results with Microsoft Office 97, hereinafter Office, Microsoft Corp. 1997, pages 448-457, 563-573.

Regarding independent claim 1, Office discloses the creation, a displaying of a pivot table view for displaying data found in a database in a quick way. The pivot table includes several page fields, rows, columns, and cells for relating the data to be found in various reports (pages 563-568)-- *defining a relational abstraction of a data store, the definition including a plurality of views, scalar or aggregate fields associated with the views, and relations between the views.*

Furthermore, Office teaches the generation of a report which has a drop-down button, which for example allows you to view the summary for each salesperson found in the database in

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a company (page 568)-- *generating a report that includes at least one drill link associated with a sequence of zero or more relations originating at a base view of the relational abstraction.*

Regarding claim 2, which depends on claim 1, Office discloses the creation of a pivot table using Excel format—*well recognized format* (pages 546, 563-568).

Regarding claim 3, which depends on claim 2, Office discloses the creation, and publishing of a pivot table over the web using the HTML format (pages 448-449, 546, 563-568).

Regarding claim 8, which depends on claim 1, Office discloses that the drop-down button allows you to see the names to several salespersons—*additional information* (page 568).

Regarding claim 9, which depends on claim 8, Office discloses that the drop-down button allows you to see the names to several salespersons, so that the selection of a name displays a different data view—*a second report* (page 568).

Regarding claim 10, which depends on claim 8, Office discloses that the drop-down button allows you to see the names to several salespersons, which are not displayed in the pivot table data view—*the drill link includes a reference to an object not associated with the relational abstraction* (page 568).

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Regarding claim 11, which depends on claim 8, Office discloses that the drop-down button allows you to see the names to several salespersons, as found in the Excel database— *the drill link includes a reference to a computer program* (page 546, 563, 568).

Regarding claim 12, which depends on claim 8, Office discloses that the drop-down button is displayed in the pivot table data view— *the drill link includes a reference to the report that includes the drill link* (page 568).

Regarding claim 13, which depends on claim 8, Office discloses that the drop-down button allows you to see the names to several salespersons, which are not displayed in the pivot table data view— *the drill link includes a reference to the context of the drill link within the report.* (page 568).

Regarding claim 14, which depends on claim 8, Office discloses that the drop-down button allows you to see the names to several salespersons, which allows you to display data related to the names— *the drill link includes key values identifying a particular value within the report* (page 568).

Regarding claim 15, which depends on claim 1, Office discloses that the drop-down button allows you to retrieve data from the database using a name selected last from the drop-down list— *the drill link is additionally associated with an object of the relational abstraction whose base view is the destination view of the last relation in the sequence* (page 568).

Regarding claim 16, which depends on claim 15, Office discloses that the drop-down button allows you to retrieve the data, such as numerical values—scalar fields-- from the database (page 568).

Regarding claim 17, which depends on claim 15, Office discloses that the drop-down button allows you to retrieve the data, such as numerical values—*aggregate fields*—added to the table from the database (page 568).

Regarding claim 18, which depends on claim 1, Office discloses that the drop-down button allows you to retrieve data from the database using a name selected last from the drop-down list— *the drill link includes a reference to an object that is based upon at least one object of the relational abstraction whose base view is the destination view of the last relation in the sequence* (page 568).

Regarding claim 19, which depends on claim 18, Office discloses that the drop-down button allows you to retrieve data from the database using a name selected last from the drop-down list. The data corresponding to the various names is displayed onto the table— *the reference is to a report template* (page 568).

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Regarding claim 20, which depends on claim 18, Office discloses that the drop-down button allows you to retrieve data from the database using a name—*an expression*-- selected last from the drop-down list (page 568).

Regarding independent claim 21, Office discloses the creation, a displaying of a pivot table view for displaying data found in a database in a quick way. The pivot table includes several page fields, rows, columns, and cells for relating the data to be found in various reports (pages 563-568)-- *defining a relational abstraction of a data store, the definition including a plurality of views, scalar or aggregate fields associated with the views, and relations between the views.*

Furthermore, Office teaches the generation of a report which has a drop-down button, which for example allows you to view the summary for each salesperson found in the database in a company. The summary is displayed as you select one of various names displayed by the button (page 568)-- *generating a report that includes at least one drill link associated with a sequence of zero or more relations originating at a base view of the relational abstraction.....*

Regarding claim 22, which depends on claim 21, Office discloses that the drop-down button allows you to retrieve the data, such as numerical values—*scalar fields*-- from the database (page 568).



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Regarding claim 23, which depends on claim 21, Office discloses that the drop-down button allows you to retrieve the data, such as numerical values—*aggregate fields*—added to the table from the database (page 568).

Regarding claim 24, which depends on claim 21, Office discloses that the drop-down button allows you to retrieve data from the database using a name—*an expression*-- selected last from the drop-down list (page 568).

Regarding claim 25, which depends on claim 21, Office discloses that the drop-down button allows you to retrieve data from the database using a name selected last from the drop-down list. The data corresponding to the various names is displayed onto the table— *the reference is to a report template* (page 568).

Regarding claim 26, which depends on claim 21, Office discloses that the drop-down button allows you to retrieve data from the database using a name selected last from the drop-down list. The data corresponding to the various names is displayed onto the table— *the reference is to another report* (page 568).

Regarding claim 27, which depends on claim 25, Office discloses that the drop-down button allows you to retrieve data from the database using a name selected last from the drop-down list. The data corresponding to the various names is displayed onto the table— *a plurality of templates* (page 568).

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Regarding claim 28, which depends on claim 21, Office discloses that the drop-down button allows you to retrieve data from the database using a name selected last from the drop-down list. The data is displayed onto a table relating the various data (page 568).

Regarding claim 29, which depends on claim 21, Office discloses that the drop-down button allows you to retrieve data from the database using various names selected last from the drop-down list— *reference to the first report* (page 568).

Regarding claim 30, which depends on claim 21, Office discloses that the drop-down button allows you to retrieve data from the database using various names selected last from the drop-down list— *reference to the second report* (page 568).

Regarding claim 31, which depends on claim 21, Office discloses that the drop-down button allows you to retrieve the names to be displayed on the pivot table— *the drill link includes a reference to the context of the drill link within the first report* (page 568).

Regarding claim 32, which depends on claim 21, Office discloses that the drop-down button allows you to retrieve the values associated with names from the database on the drop-down-list (page 568).

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Regarding claim 33, which depends on claim 21, Office discloses that the drop-down button allows you to retrieve the names to be displayed on the pivot table (page 568). The names are used to filter information related to the selected names.

Claims 34-35 are directed towards a computer system for implementing the steps found in claims 1, and 21 respectively, and therefore is are similarly rejected.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

11. Claims 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable Office.

Regarding claim 4, which depends on claim 2, Office discloses the creation, and publishing of a pivot table over the web using the HTML format (pages 448-449, 546, 563-568). Office fails to explicitly teach *the report format is DHTML*. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have converted Excel to DHTML, and , for all the reasons found in Office , including taking advantage of the tabular structure of Excel to publish documents over the web, and taking advantage of the features found in DHTML.

Regarding claim 5, which depends on claim 2, Office discloses the creation, and publishing of a pivot table over the web using the HTML format (pages 448-449, 546, 563-568). Office fails to explicitly teach *the report format is XML*. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have converted Excel to XML, and , for all the reasons found in Office , including taking advantage of the tabular structure of Excel to publish documents over the web, and taking advantage of the features found in XML.

Regarding claim 6, which depends on claim 2, Office discloses the creation, and publishing of a pivot table over the web using the HTML format (pages 448-449, 546, 563-568). Office fails to explicitly teach *the report format is PDF*. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have converted Excel to PDF, and , for all the reasons found in Office, including taking advantage of the tabular structure of Excel to publish documents over the web, and taking advantage of the portability features found in PDF.

12. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable Office, in view of Savage(USPub. # 2004/0075683 A1, 4/22/2004, filed on 10/16/2002).

Regarding claim 7, which depends on claim 2, Office discloses the creation, and publishing of a pivot table over the web using the HTML format (pages 448-449, 546, 563-568). Office fails to explicitly teach *the report format is SVG*. However, Savage teaches creating

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graphical reports using SVG format. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined Office, and , for all the reasons found in Savage, including the creation of graphics which are lightweight and powerful (0039).

### ***Conclusion***

I. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Ahearn et al. (Pat. # 5,926,463), and Tabb et al. (Pat. # 5,787,416, and 5,603,025).

II. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Cesar B. Paula whose telephone number is (571) 272-4128. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Hong, can be reached on (571) 272-4124. However, in such a case, please allow at least one business day.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, go to <http://portal.uspto.gov/external/portal/pair>. Should you have any questions about access to the Private PAIR system, please contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866 217-9197 (toll-free).

Any response to this Action should be mailed to:

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5/30/06